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Action

Control: 17708

SS

Rec'd: October 24, 1962
1255 p.m.

Info

FROM: Wellington
TO: Secretary of State
NO: 174, October 25, 3 p.m.

NIACT

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Reference Cuba Quarantine.

Believe obviously highly desirable accomplish if possible without sinking ships or loss of life. This connection following suggestion offered.

When warning shot across bow ignored, instead of firing second shot to kill purpose would be accomplished if only propellers of ship destroyed or damaged beyond use.

As you know, since World War II Navy has had ASW torpedo that homes on propellers cavitation principle. This device homes on propeller in water with same accuracy sidewinder homes on heat in air,

Naturally present warheads have tremendous explosive capability and are intended to destroy entire submarine or vessel. However, Navy ordnance can prepare within matter of hours warheads or similar device with limited explosive capability which would destroy only propellers with chance of minor damage of hull of vessel. As targets would be setting ducks and would not need to be sought out process would be extremely expeditious. This would result in immobilized ships which would thus constitute case for tugboat rather than international incident.

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Authority State Sec 4/22/17, OS/DO 4/29/17
By smg, NARS, Date 7/22/17

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-2- 174, October 25, 3 p.m. from Wellington

I have discussed my idea informally with Admirals Tyree and Reedy. They are accord on feasibility and believe possible Navy has not considered such device.

AKERS

DMB

Note: Passed White House 10/24/62

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